

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN FRG

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1469

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: ACE MOBILE FORCE REPORT

REFS: A. STATE 054314; B. SHAPE 1200.4/20-3-3/NS41/74, 28

AUG 74; C. MC 137; D. IMSWM-41-75; E. USDELMC 186/75.

SUMMARY: AS REQUESTED (REF A), THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES MISSION ASSESSMENT OF THE IMS PROPOSAL THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE NOT FORWARD SACEUR'S PERIODIC REPORT ON THE ACE MOBILE FORCE TO THE DPC. MISSION AND USDELMC BELIEVE THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE SHOULD FORWARD SACEUR'S REPORT TO THE DPC. END OF SUMMARY.

1. IN OUR VIEW, SACEUR'S REPORT ON THE COMPOSITION AND CAPABILITY OF THE ACE MOBILE FORCE (AMF) IDENTIFIES SOME MAJOR DEFICIENCIES, IN PARTICULAR, THE LACK OF AMF EXERCISES.

2. THE PRIMARY MISSION OF THE AMF IS TO DEMONSTRATE ALLIANCE SOLIDARITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS OR TENSION AND TO DETER AGGRESSION BY DEPLOYING RAPIDLY AND EARLY TO ANY THREATENED REGION, PARTI-
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CULARLY ON THE FLANKS OF EUROPE.

3. THE AMF IS REQUIRED BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S GENERAL DIRECTIVE TO PARTICIPATE IN TWO FIELD TRAINING EXERCISES EACH YEAR,

ONE IN THE NORTHERN AND ONE IN THE SOUTHERN REGION. THE LAST FULL SCALE AMF EXERCISE WAS CONDUCTED IN THE SPRING OF 1973. AS SACEUR POINTS OUT (REF B), THE OVERALL COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF THE AMF IS SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE LACK OF FIELD TRAINING EXERCISES, I.E, (A) REDUCED PARTICIPATION IN AMF EXERCISE ARGUS EXPRESS TO A COMMAND POST EXERCISE (MAR 74) AND (C) POSTPONEMENT OF AMF EXERCISE BOSPHOROUS EXPRESS (OCT74). THE PROSPECTS FOR THIS YEAR'S EXERCISE ARE PRECARIOUS, SINCE THE AMF IS SCHEDULED IN SEPT TO DEPLOY ON A FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE TO GREEK THRACE (AMF EXERCISE ACHILLES EXPRESS).

4. EXERCISE ACHILLES EXPRESS, WHICH IS A FOLLOW-ON TO ALEXANDER EXPRESS (1973), IS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE AMF'S CAPABILITY OF RAPID DEPLOYMENT TO MIKRA AIRFIELD IN GREEK THRACE IN ORDER TO EXERCISE CONTINGENCY PLANS AND IMPROVE COORDINATION BETWEEN THE AMF, COMLANDSOUTH AND NATIONAL GREEK FORCES. HOWEVER, MISSION BELIEVES IMS RELUCTANCE TO FORWARD SACEUR'S PERIODIC REPORT TO THE DPC IS BASED UPON A DESIRE TO AVOID DPC DISCUSSION ON FUTURE AMF EXERCISES IN THE SOUTHERN REGION AND ON THE COMPLEX ISSUES INVOLVED IN GREECE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH NATO IN THE POLITICAL/ MILITARY SPHERE.

5. MISSION AND USDELMC BELIEVE THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE SHOULD FOLLOW NORMAL PROCEDURES CONTAINED IN REF C AND FORWARD SACEUR'S PERIODIC REPORT, ALONG WITH MC VIEWS, TO THE DPC. THIS WOULD PERMIT THE DPC TO CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS IN AMF PLANNING IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE SOUTHERN REGION. BRUCE

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